

XV.—*Postscript to the Account of the Wild Goat of Nipál, printed in the September No. of the Journal, page 490. By B. H. HODGSON, Esq.*

Carefully as I thought my account of the wild goat of Nipál, recently published by you, was executed, I find that there is one material error in it, viz. the statement that the species has only two teats or mammæ. A recent dissection of a fine male led to the notice of the fact, that there are four teats, which fact was confirmed by the examination of two live females. There can, therefore, be no question that this species of goat has four teats: and the circumstance is so remarkable, that I propose to substitute the name *Quadrimammis*, or four-teated; for the popular name of *Jhárál* under which I described it. Deer are distinguished by four teats; goats and sheep, heretofore, by two; the intermediate genus, antelope, by four or two, in the several species. *Capra Quadrimammis vel Jhárál*, by its four teats, offers a singular and unique approximation (in this genus) to *cervus*; and another proof that the infinite variety of nature cannot be designated by our artificial signs and peremptory divisions. *Antilope, capra*, and *ovis*, how shall we contradistinguish them? solid cored horns, in the first, is no unerring mark: and now we have a species of the second, and a *beardless* species too, abandoning his congeners to tally himself with *cervus*—quoad, the number of mammæ.

XVI.—*Analysis of Raw Silk. By Mr. J. W. LAIDLAY.*

A. A hundred grains of yellow raw silk were digested in moderately strong alcohol, which soon assumed a fine orange tint. At the end of some days, much colour remaining unremoved, heat was applied, and the solution gently boiled. The alcohol was then decanted, and successive portions of the same solvent were employed, till the silk appeared perfectly decolorized. The solutions were then reduced to a moderate compass by distillation, and on cooling deposited a feeble cloudy precipitate, which subsided slowly. The clear fluid being decanted, and evaporated at a gentle heat to dryness, left a deep orange brown mass, which weighed 0.9 grains. This substance was adhesive, fusible, scarcely, if at all, soluble in water, but readily so in alcohol, to which in small proportions it communicated a fine orange tint. A concentrated solution deposits on cooling a vast number of minute shining crystals, which subside to the bottom in the form of a brilliant orange-brown powder. When this precipita-